



South Carolina Cancer Profile

June 2019

What Is Cancer?

Cancer is not one disease, but a group of diseases. For example, lung cancer is a completely different disease than colorectal cancer. All cancers have one thing in common, they can grow and spread uncontrollably if not diagnosed at an early stage and properly treated.

Cancer is caused by many things, like smoking, poor diet, and/or family history. The greatest risk factor for any cancer is increasing age. The risk of getting cancer increases with age. The risk of developing cancer differs for men and women. In the United States, one out of two men and one out of three women will have cancer in his or her lifetime.

What Is Cancer Incidence?

Cancer *incidence* is a measure of how many *new cancer cases* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *incidence rate* tells how many cancers were diagnosed per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer incidence rate of 400 means that for every 100,000 people, 400 were diagnosed with cancer).

Incidence rates can be *age-adjusted*, meaning that the age structure of the population is taken into account when rates are calculated. Adjusting for age allows us to compare rates by removing differences in the age structure among different populations. Incidence rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

What Is Cancer Mortality?

Cancer *mortality* is a measure of how many *cancer deaths* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *mortality rate* tells how many people died from cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer mortality

rate of 150 means that for every 100,000 people in the population, 150 died from cancer).

Cancer mortality rates can also be *age-adjusted*, taking into account the age structure of the population. Mortality rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Impact of Cancer in South Carolina

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 1,762,450 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2019. This translates to 4,829 new diagnoses each day. Furthermore, an estimated 606,880 people in the United States are expected to die from cancer in 2019.

In South Carolina, ACS estimates 29,830 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2019 or over 81 new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while an estimated 10,720 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2019. The four most common cancers in SC are cancers of the breast (female), lung, prostate, and colon/rectum. The four leading cancer causes of death in SC are lung, colon/rectum, pancreas, and breast (female).

Tables 1 through 4 below show the number of new cancer cases and deaths for South Carolina, including age-adjusted rates for cancers in South Carolina and the United States. The last column in each table shows how SC ranks in comparison to the other 50 states and Washington DC. A rank of 1 means that a state has the highest rate of any state, while a rank of 51 means that a state has the lowest rate of any state. *At this time, the most recent cancer statistics for South Carolina and the United States are for new cases diagnosed in 2016. Deaths occurring in 2016 are also used.*

Table 1 shows that there were a total of 27,313 new cancer cases in South Carolina during 2016. For all cancers combined, SC ranks 33rd in the nation for

cancer incidence compared to all other states and Washington DC. Rates and rankings by sex and race are also provided.

Table 1. Cancer Incidence by Sex and Race, 2016
South Carolina and the United States*

	US	SC		US rank
	rate	rate	new cases	
all	421.4	440.9	27,313	33
male	452.9	486.7	14,009	25
female	401.1	407.6	13,304	6
white	422.4	444.7	20,651	29
black	418.3	430.3	6,249	25

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Table 2 shows that there were a total of 10,349 cancer **deaths** in South Carolina during 2016. For all cancers combined, SC ranks 13th in the nation for cancer mortality compared to all other states and Washington DC. Rates and rankings by sex and race are also provided.

Table 2. Cancer Mortality by Sex and Race, 2016
South Carolina and the United States*

	US	SC		US rank
	rate	rate	lives lost	
all	155.9	168.0	10,349	13
male	185.9	205.7	5,594	12
female	134.0	140.4	4,755	22
white	156.7	163.6	7,687	16
black	178.2	185.1	2,562	20

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Table 3 shows a comparison of cancer incidence between the United States and South Carolina for selected cancer types, including SC's ranking in the US compared to other states and Washington DC.

Table 3. Cancer Incidence for Selected Cancers, 2016
South Carolina and the United States*

cancer	US	SC		US rank
	rate	rate	new cases	
breast (female)	123.6	128.3	4,155	22
prostate (male)	100.0	111.6	3,498	19
lung/bronchus	54.2	59.7	3,854	23
colon/rectum	36.9	38.1	2,304	28
pancreas	12.1	14.0	873	12

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Table 4 shows a comparison of cancer mortality between the United States and South Carolina for selected cancer types, including SC's ranking in the US compared to other states and Washington DC.

Table 4. Cancer Mortality for Selected Cancers, 2016
South Carolina and the United States*

cancer	US	SC		US rank
	rate	rate	lives lost	
breast (female)	20.0	22.5	743	3
prostate (male)	19.4	22.3	532	8
lung/bronchus	38.5	42.5	2,700	17
colon/rectum	13.7	14.3	866	19
pancreas	11.0	11.8	739	15

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Stage

Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life. **Figure 1** below shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in South Carolina.

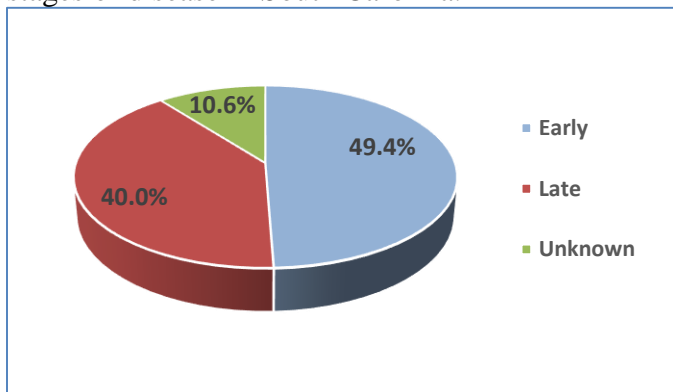


Figure 1. SC Cancers by Stage at Diagnosis, 2016
Source: SC Central Cancer Registry. Statistics include *in situ* cancers.

Breast Cancer

Among women, breast cancer was the most commonly diagnosed cancer in South Carolina in 2016 and the 2nd leading cause of cancer death. There were 4,155 new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and 743 deaths from the disease during 2016 in South Carolina.

Prostate Cancer

Among men, prostate cancer was the most common cancer diagnosed in South Carolina in 2016 and the 2nd leading cause of cancer death. South Carolina had 3,498 new prostate cancer cases diagnosed and 532 deaths from the disease in 2016.

Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer was the most common cancer diagnosed in South Carolina in 2016 and was the leading cause of cancer death. In South Carolina there were 3,854 new lung cancer cases diagnosed and 2,700 lung cancer deaths in 2016.

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer was the 4th most commonly diagnosed cancer in South Carolina in 2016 and the 2nd leading cause of cancer death overall. In South Carolina, there were 2,304 new colorectal cancer cases and 866 colorectal cancer deaths in 2016.

Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic cancer was the 9th most common cancer in South Carolina in 2016; however, it was the 4th

most common cause of cancer death overall. South Carolina had 873 new pancreatic cancer cases diagnosed and 739 deaths occur in 2016.

Screening

Men and women should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk.

The South Carolina Best Chance Network (BCN) is a federally funded program that provides breast and cervical cancer screening, follow-up and diagnosis for low-income, uninsured women age 30 – 64. For more information see:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/FreeCancerScreenings/>

Notes: Data are subject to change as data sets are updated. Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. The following suppression rules may have been applied to the data in the text and tables above: counts of 1-4 are recorded as less than 5; counts of 5-9 are rounded to 10. Rates based on counts fewer than 16 are suppressed (~).

Resources

SC Central Cancer Registry (DHEC)

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/CancerStatisticsReports/>

American Cancer Society

<http://www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/>

CDC National Program of Cancer Registries

United States Cancer Statistics

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DHEC)

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/>

Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control (DHEC)

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/TobaccoCessation/>

SC Cancer Alliance

<http://www.sccanceralliance.org/>

